

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 L-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 ARA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 BIB-01 NIC-01

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R 121529Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1242

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EWWT, PO, UR

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE-SOVIET AIR AGREEMENT

REF: LISBON 5219

1. LISBON PRESS ANNOUNCED SIGNING DECEMBER 11 OF PORTUGUESE-SOVIET AIR AGREEMENT. ACTION FOLLOWS SIGNING OF SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH POLAND (REF). PRESS REPORTS THAT AEROFLOT PLANS TO START LISBON-MOSCOW SERVICE IN JANUARY, AND THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES THROUGH RIGHTS TO CUBA AND "OTHER AMERICAN COUNTRIES." PORTUGUESE AIRLINE TAP HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO SERVICE ROUTE. IN THEIR SIGNING CEREMONY REMARKS PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT AIR AGREEMENT WAS FIRST BILATERAL ACCORD SIGNED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT OTHERS WERE LIKELY TO FOLLOW (E.G., MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS).

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2. OTHER EAST BLOC COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN AIR LINKS WITH LISBON, ALTHOUGH NO NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. DELEGATIONS FROM BULGARIAN AIRLINE VISITED LISBON TWO WEEKS AGO FOR TALKS WITH TAP. ROMANIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT ROMANIA HOPES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLY IN JANUARY, FOR EXTENDING CURRENT BUCHAREST-MADRID ROUTE TO LISBON.

3. DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CIVIL AERONAUTICS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, PORTUGAL HAS NOT GRANTED AEROFLOT ONWARD RIGHTS TO CUBA OR OTHER AMERICAN DESTINATIONS. AGREEMENT, HE SAID, PROVIDES FOR ONLY THIRD AND FOURTH FREEDOMS (RIGHTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES), WITH PROVISION TO DISCUSS FIFTH FREEDOM (ONWARD RIGHTS) CONCESSIONS ON RECIPROCAL COMMERCIAL BASIS. DIRECTOR-GENERAL, HOWEVER, SAID USSR HAS MADE SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR ONWARD FLIGHT RIGHTS. IMPLYING THAT ONE IS CUBA, HE SAID PORTUGAL IN PRINCIPLE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO GRANTING IT.

4. PANAM REP CLAIMS TO HAVE INSIDE INFORMATION THAT GOP HAS AGREED TO GIVE AEROFLOT TRAFFIC RIGHTS MOSCOW-FRANKFURT-LISBON AND REVERSE AS WELL AS DIRECT MOSCOW-LISBON LINK. AEROFLOT HAS, HE SAYS, ALSO BEEN GRANTED ONWARD RIGHTS TO CUBA WHICH CAN TIE IN WITH EITHER OF AFOREMENTIONED ROUTES. TAP IN RETURN HAS RIGHT TO EXTEND ITS PRESENT FRANKFURT LINK TO THE SOVIET UNION. PANAM REP WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER GERMANS HAD GRANTED RIGHT TO AEROFLOT TO CARRY TRAFFIC FROM FRANKFURT, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT GERMANS HAD NOT YET GRANTED SUCH RIGHT TO TAP.
SCOTT

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